course the chief interest of the genus, which may be " an unmodified survivor from Mesozoic times, and therefore from a time long before the Didelphyidae, Peramelidae., and Dasyuxidae were differentiated one from the other." Another ancient feature

—Banded Australian Anteater. *Myrmecobius fasciatus.* × ½.
Fig. 82..

(found in Jurassic mammals) is a mylo-hyoid groove upon the lower jaw, which, however, is not always present-, and its existence has therefore been denied. The single species, *M. fasciatus,* is partly arboreal and partly terrestrial in habit, and feeds upon
ants. It is a Western and

Southern Australian, form.

Fam. 2. DidelpJayidae*—All the members of this family are pentadactylous. The teeth are fifty in number, arranged thus : I J C -J- Pm -|- M -J-. The caecum is small; the pouch is generally absent ; the tail generally long and prehensile.

The genus *D*

i d el p li y s **c o n t ai n s m o st o f t h e fo r m s b el o n gi n g t o t hi s f a m il y, i n cl u d i n g a s it d o e s s o m e t w e n ty - t h r**

e e s p e ci e s. T h e O p o s s u m s a r e m ai n ly a r b o r e al a n i-

m als, insectivorous in 3T*Q« 83.— Virginian Opossum. *Didelphys virginiana

,, . - T T , ,, , x

4. (After "Vogt and Specht.)

' their food ; but the larger

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species eat reptiles, birds, and their eggs. Several of the small species carry their young, when able to leave tlie teats, <>n